MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): A copy* of the G. O. Dis. No. 1648 of 23/Rev., dated the 8th December 1923, is laid on the table.

Improvement of Communications between Palode and Vamanapuram.

42. MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): In view of the prohibitive cost of carting tapioca and other agricultural products from Palode and other places in Neduvangad to Trivandrum and other places, will the Government be pleased to call for and lay on the table a report as to whether it would not be possible to establish river communication between Palode and Vamanapuram by the diversion of the course of the river or by other means?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The matter requires investigation. The Chief Engineer will be consulted.

State Life Insurance Scheme.

43. MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Will the Government be pleased to state the stage at which the scheme of Life Insurance for the non-official public is at present?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The scheme is still under consideration.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, may I know from the member for how long this scheme has been under the consideration of the Government?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): For about two or three years.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): How long will it take for the Government to finish their consideration?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Before three months the consideration of the scheme will be over.

Financial Help to Merchants from Banks holding Government Investments.

44. MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): With reference to the answer given at the meeting of the Council held on the 24th February 1921 to part (iii) of question No. 22, will the Government be pleased to state why instructions have not yet been given to the various banks in which Sirkar funds are invested to render financial help to merchants carrying on trade here?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The Government do not consider that a stipulation such as was suggested in 1921 in the question referred to can be made a condition precedent to the investment of surplus funds with banks. It is hoped that, when the State-aided Bank begins to work, further banking facilities over and above those that are already afforded will be available to merchants carrying on trade in the State.

* *Vide* Appendix II—page 122.

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